TRAINING ON SEED BALL TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED BY ICFRE

Conducted by

Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore

0n 26.10.2021

Training Report

The Training on Seed Ball Technology developed by ICFRE was conducted by the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding through virtual mode on 26th October 2021. The participants were from the Andaman Forest Departments. The Training program started with Welcome address by Shri. K. Murali Shankar, IFS, Head of Office & VVK incharge for Andaman and followed by the introduction of 16 trainees from Andaman in the rank of Forest Range Officers. The CCF, Research & Working Plan, Shri. G. Trinath Kumar, IFS, highlighted their field experience and need for the present training. The Introductory remarks about the training was given by Dr. C. Kunhikannan, Director, IFGTB, Coimbatore. The Co-ordinator cum Nodal officer for Seed Ball Technology, Dr. R. Anandalakshmi, Scientist-F, IFGTB made an elaborate presentation on Seed ball technology, its practical application, preparation of the seed balls, laying of field trials and data recording of the seed ball trials. During the interactive session, a participant Shri. P. Kuriakose, Forest Range Officer asked about the chance of prolonging the viability and use of recalcitrant seeds in Seed Ball Technology. Dr. R. Anandalakshmi replied that the seed balls are meant to protect the seeds from damage and preferably suitable for orthodox seeds. This technology cannot improve the viability of recalcitrant seeds, however intermediate seeds can be used for Seed Ball Technology. Another participant Shri. Alkab Hassan, Forest Range Officer shared the difficulties faced in implementing Seed ball technology as the seeds are getting washed away by the heavy rain. Dr. R. Anandalakshmi, nodal officer clarified his doubts by suggesting to make seed cakes in cube/cuboid/disc shapes than spherical. Also care to be taken to choose areas with at least 2-3 feet soil depth area though get dried roots get anchored well so that it will sprout during rainy season. Shri. K. Murali Shankar IFS, informed to use orthodox seeds and select Plantation Reclamation Working Circle areas for best results as the ground vegetation is clear in such areas. He also suggested that soil and moisture content should be studied and to be monitored prior to implementing Seed ball technology in Eco- restoration Working Circle areas. Another

participant Shri. Subhashis Ray, Forest Range Officer enquired about how to dry the seeds. Shri. K. Murali Shankar IFS, replied that depending on the season or moisture content, the seeds can be kept one or two days in open and later on choose shade drying to alleviate the growth of fungus. The training ended with Vote of thanks by Mrs.V ineetha M. V, Technical Officer.

Online Training on Seed Ball Technology of ICFRE to Andaman Forest Range Officers